

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 12, 2002, the Examiner makes a non-statutory double patenting rejection based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy, over commonly owned co-pending application Ser. No. 09/460,806. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith, to overcome such rejection. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1 – 57 remain in the case, claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 15-18, 20-25, 31-33, 41-44, 47-49, and 51, having been amended and claim 57 having been added.

Claims 41, 43-47 and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,298,327 (“Hunter”). Claims 1-16, 20-22, 24-40, 42, 48-49 and 52-56 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Hunter and Bezos et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,819,902 (“Bezos”). Claims 17-19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) further in view of Ferguson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,819,092 (“Ferguson”). For the reasons including, inter alia, those discussed below, each of independent claims 1, 5, 15, 22, 25, 33, 41, 44, 52, 54 and 56, as amended is patentable over the applied reference. Moreover, each of the claims dependent therefrom is patentable. The rejections, insofar as they may be applied to the claims as amended, are respectfully traversed for the reasons indicated below. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The Claimed Invention

The invention is directed to solving the problem of “preparing intellectual property filings in accordance with jurisdiction- and/or agent-specific requirements.”

The invention, as claimed, is directed to a “method of operating an information service to facilitate preparation of intellectual property documents suitable for filing in one or more of plural target jurisdictions (claim 1); an “information system for transacting an intellectual property filing with plural targets therefore,” (claim 5); a “method of operating an intellectual property filing portal for servicing intellectual property filing transactions using a network

accessible information service,” (claim 15); a “computer-implemented method of operating a one-stop intellectual property filing service,” (claim 22); a “computer implemented method for initiating filing of one or more intellectual property related documents,” (claim 25, claim 33); a “computer implemented method of preparing one or more intellectual property filings,” (claim 41); “an information system for preparing intellectual property filings for at least one target in accordance with requirements therefor” (claim 44); “a computer program product encoded in a computer readable medium (as claimed) (claim 52); a method of making a computer readable encoding of one or more target jurisdiction- and associate-specific form documents” (claim 54); and “an intellectual property filing preparation system” (claim 56); all as further claimed.

By way of example, one element of claim 1 as amended provides for “registering for each of plural associates, at least one target jurisdiction and a computer readable encoding of a plurality of form documents corresponding to target jurisdiction and associate specifications.” As another example, an element of claim 5 as amended calls for, inter alia, “supplying the originating node with particularized requirements of the selected at least one target jurisdiction and at least one associate” As yet another example, an element of claim 15 calls for being “responsive to a selection by a user of at least one target jurisdiction and at least one associate corresponding thereto ...” A further example is provided by claim 22, in which an element recites “receiving at a computer, a transmission from a user, having at least one selection of two or more target jurisdictions and corresponding one or more associates for an intellectual property filing.” Claim 25, for example, recites, inter alia, “obtaining a computer readable encoding of one or more form documents, wherein the one or more form documents are specific to the target jurisdiction and to a respective associate therefor.” Further claims provide other analogous examples.

U.S. Patent 6,298,327 (Hunter), 6,029,141 (Bezos), and 5,819,092 (Ferguson)

Independent claims 41 and 44, and dependent claims 43, 45-47. and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,298,327, Hunter et al. (“Hunter”). Further, independent claims 1, 5, 16, 22, 25, 33, 52, 54 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hunter in combination with U.S. Patent 6,029,141, Bezos et al. (“Bezos”). The rejections, insofar as they might be applied to the claims as amended, are

respectfully traversed for the reasons given below.

Hunter discloses a computer-implemented expert support system for authoring invention disclosures and evaluating patentability/marketability of an invention. Apparently it “provides appropriate information on ‘how to’ prepare the different sections of an *invention disclosure*.” (Col. 4 lines 46-49.) Objects of the invention include, among others, facilitating the authoring of a *disclosure* for the purpose of a patent application, and facilitating the authoring of a *specification* of a patent application. (Col. 6, lines 2-18.) Hunter intends to “facilitate[] communication of invention characteristics and enable[] output of *invention disclosures* in a plurality of formats, including that of a patent application.” (Abstract.) Hunter does not discuss the preparation of an application itself that is suitable for filing, nor does Hunter discuss anything concerning fees associated with the filing. Indeed, any discussion of filing or fees in Hunter would be premature, since Hunter is directed to the problem of enabling “inventors to adequately *disclose* (communicate) the characteristics of their inventions.” (Col. 2, lines 43-45.)

Recognizing that Hunter fails to teach and/or suggest the invention as claimed, Bezos is cited to remedy the deficiencies. Nevertheless, for reasons including the following examples, Bezos fails to remedy such deficiencies. Bezos discloses “an Internet-based referral system that enables individuals and other business entities (‘associates’) to market products, in return for a commission, that are sold from a merchant’s Web site. The system includes automated registration software that runs on the merchant’s Web site to allow entities to register as associates.” A catalog distributed to an associate includes a referral link to the merchant’s site; when a customer purchases a product from the merchant’s site, the referral link allows a commission to be credited to the referring associate. (Abstract).

Claims 17-19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter in view of Bezos, further in view of U.S. Patent 5,819,092, Ferguson et al. (“Ferguson”). The rejection is respectfully traversed, as Ferguson fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hunter and/or Bezos.

Ferguson concerns an online service development tool with fee setting capabilities. It is addressed to creating a sophisticated commercial online service with the ability to define fee structures for accessing parts of the online system and/or ordering other goods or services usually

requiring specialized programming (e.g., Col. 3, lines 56-61). The Examiner admits that Ferguson has nothing to do with intellectual property.

Ferguson is addressed to the problem that there is a “need to create online system development tools that include features, functions and capabilities to support commercial online services such as the aforementioned fee setting function.” Col. 4, lines 12-15. Ferguson “discloses a software tool for setting fees in an online service, as part of a visually oriented tool for creating online services.” Col. 1 lines 12-15.

Notable sections of Ferguson, according to the office action, state that an object of the invention is “to provide a sophisticated fee setting tool that allows a developer to assign a system of fees for access to an online service. The fee setting tool allows complex fee arrangements to be created using a well defined scripting language.” Col. 4 lines 28-32. Further, the fee structure for the online service can handle fees levied against both users and third party content providers, e.g., “for logging onto an online service, performing searches, or downloading information.” Col. 4, lines 51-57. Accordingly, the user can initiate an electronic transaction to download, price, purchase, rent, reserve, etc. the online document “that contains images and text describing the goods and services”, or the goods/services described therein; as further described the notion of “transaction” is a real time electronic transaction (e.g., debit a user’s account), a real-time manual transaction (e.g., a clerk checks inventory and responds), delayed electronic transaction (e.g., queued transactions for batch processing) and delayed manual transaction (e.g., bids received by an antique dealer). (Col. 8 line 63 - Col. 9 line 53.) The office action cites Ferguson’s “Fee Setter subtool” as being relevant. According to Ferguson, “the actual transfer of monetary funds specified by the Fee Setter can be effected on an immediate or periodic basis.” Col. 29 lines 45-46.

In summary, Ferguson teaches a fee setting tool for setting fees on a periodic basis or use basis for online services. Ferguson explains a certain fee setting framework and consequently does not teach or suggest specifics of the online services to be delivered thereby.

Claims 41, 43-47 and 50-51 in Contrast to Hunter

Hunter is directed to an expert system for authoring an invention disclosure. Nothing in Hunter suggests anything further than an initial draft of an invention disclosure; Hunter pointedly does not suggest filing the disclosure itself. Consequently, Hunter fails to teach or even suggest intellectual property documents suitable for filing in one or more jurisdictions.

Referring now to claims 41 and 44, the Office Action argues that that Hunter teaches receiving a selection of one or more target jurisdictions from an originating computer system. The Office Action further argues that Hunter teaches that a document may be prepared in accordance with the computer readable encoding of filing requirements. To the contrary, Hunter teaches the preparation of drafts of disclosures. Hunter is directed to an “expert support system for authoring invention disclosures” (title). Specifically, the cited section of Hunter, column 31 lines 1-14 concerns “drafts of the disclosures of patent applications”, or “authoring of a plurality of invention disclosures”. Similarly, Hunter claims a “means for displaying said data in an output format appropriate for a disclosure purpose” . . . Column 31 lines 42-44. The Office Action argues that Hunter teaches that the originating computer system is supplied with a computer readable encoding of filing requirements for selected target jurisdictions. To the contrary, it appears that Hunter states that “the user is able to access the following information which bears on content and format of the disclosure”, column 4 lines 49-55, including general overview, procedures, regulations, case law. Hunter neither teaches nor suggests anything respecting a document “suitable for filing” as claimed. The Examiner will appreciate that an intellectual property document suitable for filing, and/or filing requirements, may include more than a disclosure, or in some instances (e.g., trademarks) might not include a disclosure. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that claims 41 and 44 are allowable.

Regarding claim 43, the Office Action argues that Hunter teaches transmitting a computer readable encoding of a technical document for filing. To the contrary, Hunter fails to teach or even suggest transmitting a computer readable encoding of a technical document, or transmitting a document appropriate for filing. For example, the office action equates the recited “technical document” (claim 43) and a “document suitable for filing” (independent claim 41) to the same element of Hunter, although each is recited separately in the claims.

Regarding claim 44, the Office Action makes no specific rejection thereof. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Hunter fails to disclose the claimed invention, including a selection facility, retrieval interfaces, and a filing preparation facility, all as claimed.

Regarding claim 45, the Office Action argues that Hunter discloses the claimed invention. For the reasons discussed herein, it is respectfully submitted that Hunter fails to anticipate the claimed invention. Further, Hunter, in combination with the other references, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 46, the Office Action argues that Hunter discloses the claimed invention. For the reasons discussed herein, it is respectfully submitted that Hunter fails to anticipate the claimed invention. Further, Hunter, in combination with the other references, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 47, the Office Action argues that Hunter discloses, inter alia, that the target requirement data includes filing requirements for the target jurisdiction or convention. Again, the Office Action has confused disclosure format with filing requirements. For these and other reasons discussed herein, it is respectfully submitted that Hunter fails to anticipate the claimed invention, and even in combination with the other references, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 50, the Office Action argues that Hunter discloses, inter alia, a target-specific application-filing format. Again, the Office Action has confused disclosure format with filing requirements. For these and other reasons discussed herein, it is respectfully submitted that Hunter fails to anticipate the claimed invention, and even in combination with the other references, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 51, the Office Action argues that Hunter teaches the invention as claimed. Insofar as this argument may be applied to the claim as amended, it is respectfully submitted that Hunter fails to teach the invention is claimed.

Claims 1-16, 20-22, 24-40, 42, 48-49 and 52-56 in Contrast to Hunter and Bezos

Hunter is directed to an expert system for authoring an invention disclosure. Bezos is directed to an Internet based referral system where business associates are registered with a merchant, the merchant sells products/services, and the business associate receives a referral fee from the merchant. Nothing in Hunter suggests that the goods/services provided for a referral could be related to preparing invention disclosures. Additionally, nothing in Hunter suggests anything further than an initial draft of an invention disclosure; Hunter does not suggest filing the disclosure itself nor attending to payment of fees in connection with official filings. Hunter and/or Bezos operate in a fundamentally different way than the claimed invention. Specifically, neither Hunter nor Bezos teach or even suggest, let alone disclose, anything concerning intellectual property documents suitable for filing in connection with one or more associates and/or relative to one or more target jurisdictions, as claimed. Consequently, the proposed combination fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. The Office Action provides no motivation to combine the references, other than a statement in paragraph 27 that the combination would be made “for the advantage of operating an information service to facilitate preparation of intellectual property documents with the ability of users to select from a list of registered associates, in which to file the intellectual property documents.” Hunter itself does not provide a motivation to combine its expert system with Bezos’ Internet based fee referral system, nor does Bezos provide a motivation to offer an expert system of any type, let alone Hunter’s expert system.

Assuming arguendo a motivation to combine the two references, the proposed modification would appear to change the principle of operation of either Bezos or Hunter, or both. Bezos does not appear to be appropriate to use with an expert system, as taught by Hunter. Further, Hunter’s expert system does not appear to be appropriate for use for a fee referral and collection system, as taught by Bezos. Hence, the proposed combination would appear to require a substantial re-design of Bezos, as well as some basic changes to the principles upon which Bezos operates in order to accommodate an expert system.

As per claims 1, 5, 15, 22, 25, 33 and 56, the Office Action argues that Hunter discloses a

method of operating an information service, an intellectual property filing service, a computer implemented method, and/or an intellectual property filing preparation system, including distribution and retrieval of form documents to an originating filer for use in preparation of intellectual property documents for filing. To the contrary, Hunter does not disclose anything specific to documents suitable for filing. Hunter concerns an expert system for authoring of a disclosure, or preparation of drafts of disclosures. For example, Hunter's abstract states "the system enables output of invention disclosures in a plurality of formats, including that of a patent application." However, Hunter's invention disclosures are not necessarily documents suitable for filing as intellectual property, e.g., no patent claims, no trademark information, etc.

The Office Action admits that Hunter does not disclose the registering for plural associates, at least one target jurisdiction, nor computer-readable encoding of target jurisdiction and associate-specific form documents therefor.

The Office Action argues that it would have been obvious to have included Bezos' registering for each of plural associates at least one target jurisdiction and computer readable encoding of target jurisdiction- and associate-specific form documents therefore. To the contrary, the following are examples of the Office Action's errors in characterizing Bezos. First, Bezos neither teaches nor suggests anything regarding attorneys or agents. Second, Bezos neither teaches nor suggests anything regarding target jurisdictions as claimed. Furthermore, per Bezos, an associate is an entity that registered with a merchant (e.g., Col. 6, lines 31-40). Also, per Bezos, it is the merchant (not the associate) that sells products/services to the purchaser (e.g., Col. 8, lines 55-58).

Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that it would have been obvious to combine Hunter and Bezos, that combination would still be deficient.

For example, with regard to claim 1 as amended, nothing in Bezos or Hunter teaches or suggests that the documents distributed to an originating filer are used "in preparation of the intellectual property documents suitable for filing by respective ones of the associates."

Further, with regard to independent claims 5, 15, 22, 25, 33 and 56, the Office Action fails to specify the reasons for rejection, and fails to cite any particular portion of any reference supporting the rejection. The following are a few examples of such omissions: "a network

including an originating node and plural target nodes...” (claim 5); “servicing intellectual property filing transactions using a network accessible information service...” (claim 15, before amendment); “receiving ... at least one selection of two or more target jurisdictions and corresponding one or more associates for an intellectual property filing...” (claim 22, as amended); “selecting one or more target jurisdictions from amongst a set of supported jurisdictions...” (claims 25, 33); and “means for selecting one or more target jurisdictions and respective associates...” (claim 56). The Examiner is respectfully requested to provide the required citations to a particular part of the reference(s). 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2). It is respectfully submitted that the references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in these claims. Nevertheless, if the Examiner maintains this rejection, he is respectfully requested to remedy the lack of citation and reasoning, so that applicant may respond substantively thereto.

As per claims 35-36 and 49, the Office Action argues that it would have been obvious to include contents of a priority application (claim 35), data retrieved from a docket system (claim 36) or a priority application corresponding to a previously filed intellectual property application (claim 49). The Examiner takes notice that allegedly these are well known information fields that are part of the application process at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and argues that it is obvious to include this information within the intellectual property application process. First, the combination of Hunter and Bezos fail to provide for documents suitable for filing. Second, if the Examiner maintains that a computer readable encoding of intellectual property data includes the contents of a priority application, and/or includes the data retrieved from a docket system, and/or includes priority application corresponding to a previously filed intellectual property application, he is respectfully requested to provide the required evidence thereof. MPEP § 2144.03.

As per claims 2-4, 6-14, 16, 20-21, 24, 26-32, 34, 37-40, 42, 48, and 53-55, the Office Action fails to specify the reasons for rejection, and fails to cite any particular portion of any reference supporting the rejection. The Examiner is respectfully requested to provide the required citation to a particular part of the reference(s). 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2). In any event, it is respectfully submitted that the references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the

invention as claimed in these claims. Nevertheless, if the Examiner maintains this rejection, he is respectfully requested to remedy the lack of citation and reasoning, so that applicant may respond substantively thereto. Examples of elements that are neither taught nor suggested in the references are provide below. These are merely provided as examples as the Office action fails to raise any substantive argument to advance prosecution with regard to these claims..

As per claim 2, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, an originating filer as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 3, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, an originating filing, and periodic distribution, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 4, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, distribution as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 6, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, and originating node and selection of two or more target jurisdictions, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 7, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, selected at least one target jurisdiction, and corresponding at least one associate, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 8, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, selected at least one target jurisdiction, and corresponding at least one associate, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 9, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, a selected at least one target jurisdiction and corresponding at least one associate, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 10, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, an originating node and target nodes, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 11, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, an originating node, and an intellectual property filing portal, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited

references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 12, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, registration by one or more of the associates of particularized requirements for the corresponding at least one target jurisdiction, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 13, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, a network as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 14, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, a computer readable encoding of a technical document, and a computer readable encoding of information for completion of a filing paper, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 16, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, registering of one or more associates for the making of intellectual property filings in respective one or more target jurisdictions, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 20, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, selection by the user of the at least one target jurisdiction and the at least one associate corresponding thereto, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 21, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, supplying the user with computer readable encoding of target jurisdiction filing requirements for technical documents, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 24, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, populating target jurisdiction and associate-specific documents, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 26, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, completing the claimed form documents (see claim 25) as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 27, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, selecting a respective

associate, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 28, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the obtaining and supplying as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 29, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the obtaining as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 30, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the supplying as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 31, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the obtaining and supplying, and supplied portion, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 32, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the technical documents and completed ones of the form documents as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 34, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the transforming as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 37, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the electronically transmitting, and the receiving as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 38, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the electronically transmitting, and the transforming, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 39, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the intellectual property application, amendment, transmittal paper, etc., as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 40, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the target-neutral format as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 42, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, a selection of at least

one attorney and/or agent corresponding to each target jurisdiction selection, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 48, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the target, and target requirement data as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 53, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, the codes as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 54, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, maintaining a data store of target jurisdiction- and associate-specific form documents for transacting an intellectual property filing, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

As per claim 55, the cited references fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, registering associates for fulfillment of intellectual property filings, as further claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed.

Claims 17-19 and 23 in Contrast to Ferguson, Hunter and Bezos

Claims 17-19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter in view of Bezos, and further in view of Ferguson. Some of the deficiencies of Hunter, Bezos and Ferguson are explained above; there are additional deficiencies in relation to the claims as amended. Ferguson fails to remedy the deficiencies.

It should be noted that the rejection fails to apply the references to each claim. The rejection mentions several elements of these claims, and omits some elements. Further, the rejection applies several sections of the reference wholesale to all claims without distinction. To the extent that the Examiner applies all the cited sections of the reference to each of claims 17-19 and 23, it is apparent that the rejection cannot stand. Specifically, the Office Action equates more than one claimed element to a single element of the reference. This shows that the reference fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention of claims 17-19 and 23, as amended.

Ferguson concerns an online service development tool with fee setting capabilities. The user can initiate an electronic transaction to download, price, purchase, rent, reserve, etc. the online

document “that contains images and text describing the goods and services”, or the goods/services described therein. The office action cites Ferguson’s “Fee Setter subtool” as being relevant. According to Ferguson, “the actual transfer of monetary funds specified by the Fee Setter can be effected on an immediate or periodic basis.” Col. 29 lines 45-46.

In summary, Ferguson teaches a fee setting tool for setting fees on a periodic basis or use basis for online services. Ferguson explains a certain fee setting framework and consequently does not teach or suggest specifics of the online services to be delivered thereby.

As per claim 17, the Office Action erroneously states that the references teach, inter alia, quoting fees associated with both the target jurisdiction and associate. This refusal, insofar as it may be applied to claim 17 as amended, is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, Bezos teaches that the merchant, not the associate, sells the selected product. Moreover, none of the references teach fees for a particular selected target jurisdiction and associate combination. The references are completely devoid of teaching or suggesting that the fees may include the fees for the target jurisdiction, and the associate fees for the associate. Further, none of the references teaches or suggests the form documents (specific to the target jurisdiction and associate (claim 15)) as claimed. Further, none of the references teaches or suggests supplying such documents contingent upon authorization by the user of the quoted fees.

As per claim 18, the Office Action cites Ferguson, Hunter and Bezos as teaching the invention as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed; the discussion of claim 17 is incorporated in this regard. The cited sections of Ferguson fail to remedy the deficiencies.

As per claim 19, the Office Action cites Ferguson, Hunter and Bezos as teaching the invention as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed; the discussion of claim 18 is incorporated in this regard. The cited sections of Ferguson fail to remedy the deficiencies.

As per claim 23, the Office Action cites Ferguson, Hunter and Bezos as teaching the invention as claimed. The deficiencies of the cited references have been previously discussed; the discussion of claim 17 is incorporated in this regard. The cited sections of Ferguson fail to remedy the deficiencies.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 15, 22, 25, 33, 41, 44, 52, 54 and 56 when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1, 5, 15, 22, 25, 33, 41, 44, 52, 54 or 56, but also because of additional features they recite. Examples of some of these features were discussed above.

Summary

Applicant respectfully submits that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicant does not concede that the cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, Applicant has provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

Applicant strongly emphasizes that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples Applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, Applicant asserts that it is the combination of elements recited in each of the claims, when each claim is interpreted as a whole, which is patentable. Applicant has emphasized certain features in the claims as clearly not present in the cited references, as discussed above. However, Applicant does not concede that other features in the claims are found in the prior art. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, Applicant is providing examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

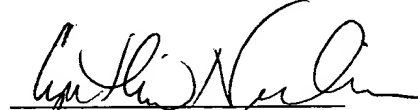
For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-56, insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended, must be withdrawn. Consequently, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee that may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia K. Nicholson
Registration No. 36,880

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HALE AND DORR LLP
1455 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 942-8482 (telephone)
(202) 942- 8484 (facsimile)